Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE 100-INCH TELESCOPE.

The photograph reproduced as the Frontispiece of the present number was made in October, 1917. The short ladder and the 10-inch box on the floor at the right will give a scale for estimating the size of the telescope. The great mirror is now in position and preliminary tests are in progress. A general article describing the telescope and its performance will be printed in a later number.

EPHEMERIS FOR ENCKE'S COMET.
JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1918.

1918 Greenwich Midnight	α	δ	*Log 2*	*Log* Δ
Jan. 4	$23^h\ 3^m\ 4^s$	$+3^\circ\ 25'\ 43''$	0.19116	0.22876
Jan. 8	23 6 58	+ 3 42 23	0.17612	0.22829
Jan. 12	23 11 16	+ 4 2 3	0.16014	0.22689
Jan. 16	23 15 58	+ 4 24 39	0.14320	0.22458
Jan. 20	23 21 2	+ 4 49 52	0.12503	0.22117
Jan. 24	23 26 30	+ 5 18 0	0.10574	0.21674
Jan. 28	23 32 21	+ 5 48 40	0.08496	0.21109
Feb. 1	23 38 35	+ 6 21 54	0.06252	0.20412
Feb. 5	23 45 13	+ 6 57 29	0.03822	0.19572
Feb. 9	23 52 17	+ 7 35 13	0.01176	0.18569
Feb. 13	23 59 47	+ 8 15 0	9.98282	0.17391
Feb. 17	0 7 44	+ 8 56 11	9.95092	0.16002
Feb. 21	0 16 8	+ 9 38 14	9.91556	0.14373
Feb. 25	0 24 57	+10 19 58	9.87608	0.12459
Mar. 1	0 34 12	+10 59 33	9.83182	0.10203
Mar. 5	0 43 41	+11 33 50	9.78196	0.07518

The comet passes perihelion, 1918, March 25.496.

FRANK E. SEAGRAVE.

THE ADOLFO STAHL LECTURE COURSE.

Members of the Society will be pleased to learn that the generosity of Mr. Adolfo Stahl has made possible a continuation, during the coming winter, of the course of popular lectures on Astronomy which was initiated in 1916. The first lecture of the present series was given in Native Son's Hall, 430 Mason Street, San Francisco, on Friday, November 16, by Professor Russell Tracy Crawford. This lecture is printed on another page of the present number.

Four, possibly five, additional lectures will be given in the same hall. The next one will be given on Friday, December 14th, by Dr. Charles E. St. John, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, his subject being "Our Nearest Star, the Sun."

Dr. St. John, who is a recognized authority on his subject, will present in non-technical language, and with ample illustrations, some of the latest results of the study of the Sun with the powerful instruments of the Solar Observatory.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY IN AMERICA.*

The advance of astronomical thought and research for the first two centuries (1636-1836) in America (United States) was fairly well embodied in the teaching and influences of the early colonial colleges, the chief aims of which were religious freedom and learning. Little is known of the methods of astronomical instruction in those days, without telescopes and observatories.

The history of astronomy is, as far as early colonial times are concerned, based upon what were then known as astronomical diaries, or almanacks of celestial motions, etc. That little is understood concerning these famous books is due to the fact that they have never been recognized as possessing any value, except possibly as literary curiosities. They are practically the only source from which any knowledge of early colonial astronomy can be had. The "learned" colonial ministers were almost in all cases well versed in mathematics and astronomy, and in many instances computed the data for these celestial diaries. They also observed, and computed the orbits of comets, and times of solar and lunar eclipses, studied sun spots, meteors and the daily motion of the planets.

Harvard College in 1727 established the first professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The post was occupied by John Winthrop IV (1714-1779), probably best known as America's first astronomer. In 1743 the American Philosophical Society founded in Philadelphia, and, in 1780 the American Academy of Arts and Sciences established in Boston gave new life to America's contribution to scientific thought, especially the science of astronomy.

David Rittenhouse, 1732-1796, of Philadelphia, was the second of the famous colonial astronomers and a contemporary of Winthrop at Harvard. Both were recognized in Europe by the Royal Society of London.

---

*Abstract of a paper prepared for the Albany meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Professor John Farrar of Harvard and John Quincy Adams should be known as the fathers of American observatories, since each foresaw that need as early as 1814.

About this time the mathematical period began in which Nathaniel Bowditch and Benjamin Peirce predominated. The University of North Carolina established the first college observatory in 1827. Yale followed in 1832, Williams College in 1836, West Point in 1839, Naval Observatory in 1842, Cincinnati in 1843, then many others in close succession. Harvard College Observatory, founded in 1843, was the final outcome of Farrar's initiative, with William Cranch Bond as the director of the first research observatory in the United States.

The early observations, before the scientific academies were founded, were mostly published in Europe, and not until 1846 did America have its first astronomical periodical. The year 1849 saw the commencement of an American Nautical Almanac.

FREDERICK E. BRASCH.

The John Crerar Library.